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I am a Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo where I have worked for 29 years. I have a significant speech impairment caused by Cerebral Palsy. I am a big proponent for Speech-to-Speech (STS).

I am writing about recertification of STS, which is part of the telecommunications relay service. Please recognize that Speech-to-Speech has been a successful program and needs more funding to assist in consumer education by this state.

Please protect the state's speech-disabled population by including an outreach plan for STS in the recertification process. Section 225 of the Communications Act requires that the FCC ensure that both "interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services are available, to the extent possible, to . . . speech-impaired individuals." California's goal should be functional equivalency in both service and consumer education. Presently, the state appears to be violating the spirit of section 225.

Do not let a thriving program, that is aiding an ever increasing number of people with speech disabilities, simply die out from lack of funding for consumer education. The FCC should act now to raise awareness of Speech-to-Speech, by certifying Speech-to-Speech and increasing funding. Funding for functional equivalency in information about STS is funding the public good!

Yours Truly,

Neil Jacobson